



# Residential Soil Excavation Resumes in Spring

## Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination Site

Evansville, Indiana

April 2019

### Contact information

For questions, comments or for more information about the USS Lead cleanup, contact these EPA team members:

*For general questions:*

#### Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator  
312-886-7472  
rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

*For soil sampling questions:*

#### Mary Tierney

Remedial Project Manager  
312-886-4785  
tierney.mary@epa.gov

*For questions about cleanup:*

#### Jena Sleboda

Remedial Project Manager  
312-886-0272  
sleboda.jena@epa.gov

You may call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays, or visit

[www.epa.gov/superfund/jacobsville-neighborhood-soil](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/jacobsville-neighborhood-soil).

### Access agreements

EPA staff may contact you and ask you to sign a document called an access agreement. The access agreement allows EPA workers to come onto your property to collect soil samples and clean your property.

### Blood lead testing

The Vanderburgh County Health Department offers testing to children at no cost. To schedule a test, call the Vanderburgh County Health Department at 812-435-5568. The Health Department is located on the 2nd floor at 420 Mulberry St.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency resumed soil cleanup activities in Evansville this spring. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will join the cleanup team as the engineering firm managing day-to-day cleanup activities.

### Where will the cleanup be this year?

In the 2019 construction season, the cleanup will primarily take place in the historic district near Riverside Drive (*see map on page 2*). If you live in the area, you should expect to see workers, trucks, excavators and other heavy equipment in the area, and there will be some noise from the equipment used. All work will be done in regular business hours to minimize the inconvenience caused to neighbors. The contractors will take precautions to ensure there is no dust generated while the work is done or during transportation of excavated soil.

If the soil at your property has not been tested, or you did not receive the results, you can contact Mary Tierney (*see contact information box on the left side of this page*). If you would like to get an idea of when your property will be cleaned up, you can contact Charles Rodriguez (*also in the left box*) and we will be glad to provide you with our best estimate of the date.

### Soil sampling

The first step in EPA's soil cleanup process is to get written permission from the property owner — via a consent form called an "access agreement" — so EPA can collect soil samples. The samples are taken by digging several narrow holes up to 18 inches deep at several spots in both the front yard and the back yard. The samples are taken from these holes at 6-inch intervals of depth. Levels of lead and arsenic in the sample are measured in units called parts per million. Once EPA receives the test results from the lab, we will send a letter explaining what the results were, and what the next steps are. Test results are sent directly to property owners.

Test results for lead above 400 parts lead per million parts soil (parts per million, abbreviated ppm) are above EPA's cleanup threshold. EPA's cleanup standard for arsenic contamination is 30 ppm. Properties exceeding those levels will be placed on the cleanup list.

### Residential soil cleanup process

EPA and its contractors strive to work closely with property owners to ensure they know what to expect during the cleanup and ultimately to ensure they are satisfied with the way their property looks after it has been restored. The soil cleanup process generally goes as follows:

- Meeting with property owner to go over the specifics of the cleanup.
- Excavation of contaminated soil according to cleanup designs.
- Backfill with clean soil and placing a layer of topsoil.
- Restoration of lawn areas, vegetation and landscaping items.
- Maintenance period of 30-60 days for restored grass and plants.
- Closeout meeting with owner to ensure the cleanup and restoration work was done to the owner's satisfaction.
- EPA issues a letter of cleanup completion to the property owner.

## Progress to date

EPA began residential cleanups in the Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination Superfund Site in 2010, with the first phase completed in 2012. Here are some cleanup numbers to date:

- Over 5,100 properties sampled to date.
- Around 2,450 properties cleaned up to date.
- 300 properties will be sampled in 2019.
- Around 400 properties will be cleaned up in 2019.

## About the Jacobsville Superfund site

It is believed that airborne dust, soot and smoke from historic industrial operations deposited lead on residential soil over a wide area in Evansville. Arsenic may have been deposited by airborne dust from foundries, the burning of coal, and from other industrial processes. Because these companies have long been out of business, EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management are paying for the cleanup.

The Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination site was placed on the National Priorities List, or NPL, in

2004. The NPL is a roster of the nation's most hazardous waste sites that are eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. EPA has done several rounds of soil testing to determine the boundaries of the contamination.

The initial cleanup area, known as Operable Unit 1, or OU1, is in the Jacobsville neighborhood and was cleaned up from 2009-2012. Later studies by EPA showed the lead and arsenic contamination covered a larger area, referred to as Operable Unit 2, or OU2. OU2 covers about 4½ square miles and about 10,000 residential properties. EPA estimates about 4,000 of these 10,000 properties will require cleanup.

Cleanup of OU2 properties began in 2012 and will continue for approximately 10 years. The general boundaries of OU2 are Morgan Avenue to the north, US-41 to the east, Pigeon Creek and the Ohio River to the west, and East Riverside Drive to the south. EPA is only cleaning up residential properties and properties such as day cares and schools that are used frequently by the public.



*The area outlined on the map above is where EPA will conduct the bulk of the soil cleanup during the 2019 construction season. Cleanup work will also take place outside the outlined area in a few properties dispersed throughout the city.*